

The preparing of essays and speaking at the meetings awakens and develops intellectual ability. The members observe that the power to think and express thought clearly gives men position and influence. This leads them to take more interest in educating their families and in promoting every educational enterprise. They tend to give young people correct notions about the value and dignity of farming, to give farming its true position among the useful and honourable occupations, and thus lead the sons and daughters of farmers to respect and follow the occupation of their parents. The meetings should be monthly, except in the busy seasons, and continue from two to three hours. To make them successful a good president is necessary. He should know the good farmers among the members, and have great ability to lead them to state their methods and the results to the association. Have a committee to select questions, and intelligent persons to lead in discussing them, and a good secretary or competent persons to make full reports of the meetings for the county papers. In counties where they do not exist, now is the time to begin.—*Prof. Wm. Smith, Xenia College, O.*

**A PLAN FOR DRAINAGE.**

Let some enterprising tile manufacturers select careful farmers who own flat lands, and make them something like the following proposition. That the farmer make estimate of his average crops, and the tile manufacturer propose to furnish the tile necessary to drain thoroughly the lands designated in the agreement, the farmer to furnish the labour of putting in the drains at a stipulated price, to be paid out of the excess of crops grown on the land, over and above the average yield before agreed upon, and the manufacturer agreeing to take the balance of the increase in four or five crops (as agreed) to cover the cost of tile. On level lands, where the average crop runs low and the land by nature is rich, it is a safe proposition for the tile manufacturer if the farmer honestly preforms his part of the contract. On rich, level lands that need drainage, and need it badly, it will pay twenty-five per cent annually on the investment, and in some instances more.—*Drainage Journal.*

**LIFE ON THE FARM.**

As to its drudgery—whatever has been the case in the past, where there were stumps to be pulled and mortgages to be lifted from almost every field; when it was a long way to market, and the buyer paid for produce "in trade;" when almost all implements were laboriously hewn out at home or clumsily hammered out by the village blacksmith—there is, happily, less drudgery on the farm now, and less need of it every year. Taking the year through, the working hours of a man on a farm are no longer than those of the section hand on the railway or an artisan in the shop, who has his own garden to hoe before breakfast or after supper. The busy lawyer and the doctor in average practice work longer and harder than the farmer. The grocer and the editor and the book-keeper each sees less of his children in their waking hours than the farmer who sometimes envies them their "easy life."

It must be conceded, of course, that the profits of farming are not so large on the average as those which are realized by men who are successful in mercantile life. But, such as they are, they are surer—twenty-fold surer, at least. Large profits are always contingent on large risks.—*Prairie Farmer.*

**PLANT MEDIUM-SIZED POTATOES.**

The following figures show the results of experiments made in growing potatoes at the experimental farm of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.: The Early Rose variety was planted May 10; the soil a sandy loam, unmanured, and moderately fertile. Each plot consists of a single row fifty feet in length. The rows were four feet apart, and the seed was dropped eighteen inches apart in the row. Below is the yield in pounds:

Plot No.	Yield.		Total Yield.
	Large.	Small.	
1. Small potatoes used as seed.....	30	55	85
2. Medium-sized whole potatoes.....	85	88	123
3. Same size cut in halves, one piece per hill.....	93	26	119
4. Same size cut to two eyes per piece, one piece per hill.....	84	19	103
5. Cut as No. 4, two pieces per hill....	96	24	120
6. Seed end of potato planted.....	86	30	116
7. Stem end planted.....	88	25	113
8. Middle of potato planted.....	73	41	64
9. Seed planted two inches deep.....	26	46	122
10. Seed planted four inches deep.....	98	83	131
11. Cultivated flat.....	94	91	125
12. Cultivated in ridges.....	89	29	118

Potatoes less than an average sized hen's egg are classed as small. It appears that medium-sized potatoes, cut to two eyes, and two pieces to the hill, gave the best results, that deep planting and flat culture did the best. These experiments, if they do nothing more, point out to our readers the advantage of such trials, and we hope there will grow among farmers a disposition to make annually similar tests in the culture of any and every farm crop. Much can be gained in this way.

**LET THE LIGHT IN.**

There are few farm-houses in which at least one room—often one of the best—is not kept shut up most of the time; and the spare-room intended for visitors in city homes seldom fares much better, so far as the admission of light and air are concerned. Then we put blinds on our windows to keep out the heat in summer and let them keep out the light all the year; we hang up curtains for purposes of household decoration, and regard the resulting gloom as a necessity of modern life; we even devise all fantastic forms of coloured glass for our dwellings in order to modify what little light does get in.

No house can be clean that is dark; and no house that is not clean can be healthy. Pure light is a purifier. It destroys the poison of organic disease. Its efficacy in this respect may be illustrated by the fact that the poison of the most dangerous of serpents, the cobra, which will retain its fatal power indefinitely if kept in the dark, becomes innocuous after continuous exposure to the action of sunlight. Let the light into every room, then, every day.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

PRUNE the trees that need it most, whenever the weather is mild, or else it may be neglected until the hurry of the spring work begins, which will render it impossible. Paint the wounds with light-coloured paint.

**HINTS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.**

LEMON SYRUP.—To every pint of juice, add one pound and a quarter of white sugar. Simmer until clear, then cool and bottle, corking tightly.

BLEACHING powder can be obtained by the combination of chlorine with dry slacked lime, but is commercially obtained as a bi-product in the manufacture of soda. The first application of bleaching powder for bleaching purposes was made towards the end of the last century.

WHEN colour on a fabric has been accidentally or otherwise destroyed by acid, ammonia is applied to neutralize the same, after which an application of chloroform will in almost all cases, restore the original colour. The application of ammonia is common, but that of chloroform is but little known.

CAREFUL cooking of even the longest used and best known kinds of foods, whether animal or vegetable, is the important rule to insure health and strength of the table. No matter what the quality of the food to begin with may be, a bad cook will invariably incur heavy doctors' bills and a not less inconsiderable "little account" at the druggist's.

BEEF HASH.—Chop cold cooked meat rather fine; use half as much meat as boiled potatoes chopped, when cold. Put a little boiling water and butter into an iron saucepan; when it boils again put in the meat and potatoes, well salted and peppered. Let it cook well, stirring it occasionally. Serve on buttered slices of toast, daintily arranged on a platter.

MINCE PIES.—A good disposition in winter of cold roast beef is to make with it two or three mince pies. One cupful of chopped meat, quarter of it fat, two cupfuls of apple, one teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of ground cinnamon, half a tablespoon of ground cloves, one cupful of sugar, half a cupful of raisins, half a cupful of currants, one cupful of cider; or, if preferred, one cupful of cider vinegar and water mixed.

A GREAT labour-saving article, and like some medicines, good for almost everything, is ammonia. A small quantity in warm water takes every spot off of paint, removes every particle of grease from cooking utensils, cleans and disinfects the drain pipe, cleanses delicate laces without rubbing, cleans silver, brushes, etc., and is an excellent fertilizer for plants. Like other good things, it must be carefully used, plainly labelled, and kept out of the reach of little fingers.

PUT all scraps of bread into the oven until they become a nice brown, roll them while hot quite fine. For a good-sized pudding take half a pound of crumbs, quarter of a pound of currants or raisins, one pint of milk, one teaspoonful of allspice, and one pint of boiling water. Pour the boiling water over the crumbs, stir them well, and let them soak until soft; then take all the ingredients, mix well, rub the pie dish with beef dripping, fill it, put some more, dripping or butter on the top of the pudding, and bake half an hour. This pudding is a general favourite with children and those who like a plain dish.